

MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT for the YEAR ENDING 31st DEC. 1950.

(including SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT).

MEDICAL OFFICER:

DAN E. DAVIES, M.B., Ch.B.,
MORBEN HALL,
MACHYNLLETH.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

B. BROOKS EVANS, M.R.SAN.I.,
PLAS MACHYNLLETH,
MACHYNLLETH.

Vital Statistics & Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	1,183
Estimated population (Mid-Year)	1,835
Number of inhabited houses.	574
Rateable Value	£8272
Product of a Penny Rate	£32-9-8

LIVE BIRTHS	(Legitimate: Males 14, Females 13. Total 27.
	(Illegitimate: " 0. " 0. " 0.
	(Total: " 14. " 13. " 27.

STILL BIRTHS	(Legitimate: Males 0. Females 0. Total 0.
	(Illegitimate: " 0. " 0. " 0.
	(Total: " 0. " 0. " 0.

TOTAL BIRTHS (Live & Still) Males 14. Females 13. Total 27.

Birth Rate (Live Births) per 1000 estimated population . . .	14.3
Still Birth Rate per 1000 Births (Live & Still)	NIL
Still Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population	NIL

Deaths: Males 8. Females 11. Total 19.

Death Rate per 1000 estimated population	10.09
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Pulmonary	NIL
(Non-Pulmonary	NIL
Deaths from Cancer (Males	NIL
(Females	1.
Deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage (Males	1.
(Females	4.
Deaths from Heart Disease (Males	5.
(Females	2.
Death from enlargement of Prostrate Gland	1.
Death from Accident	1.
Deaths from other diseases	4.
Deaths of Infants under 1 years of age Male 0 Female 2 Total 2.	
Death Rate per 1000 live births	74.0

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

The figure^s for Machynlleth Urban Area are given after correction with the Area Comparability Factor which allows for the differing age and sex distribution of population in different areas. (These Comparability Factors are 0.97 Births & 0.9 Deaths).

<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Per 1000 population.</u>
England & Wales.	15.8
Machynlleth Urban Area.	13.8
<u>Still Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Per 1000 population.</u>
England & Wales.	0.37
Machynlleth Urban Area.	NIL
<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Per 1000 population.</u>
England & Wales.	11.6
Machynlleth Urban Area.	9.08



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water supply is adequate in quantity at reservoir but due to the corroded state of the mains the pressure and delivery in the town is inadequate and is causing considerable inconveniences and irritation to consumers.

The Council, however, are doing their utmost to get a reconstruction and improvement scheme approved and commenced and an order has been placed for the requisite piping.

The water supply is chlorinated and treated with silicate of soda. It would be an improvement to have the catchment ground at Esgaireira Reservoir, fenced in, and the Council is now negotiating with the Forestry Commission with the view of letting the land for tree planting and fencing.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewers in the lower parts of the town are in a very defective condition and are a constant source of trouble, giving rise to pollution of ditches near the built up area of the town. A mobile petrol driven sewage pump has been purchased to assist in maintaining the flow of sewage.

The sewage disposal works are also extremely defective, are obsolete and the effluent therefrom is unsatisfactory, giving rise to polluted ditches.

The Council is doing its utmost to get a reconstruction scheme approved and started.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

House Refuse and Trade Refuse is collected twice weekly, and tipped at Cwtws Helyg. The tipping is not "controlled tipping" as set out by the Ministry of Health.

The field in which the tip is situated is subject to flooding, and this causes a certain amount of damage to tip and surrounds. The owner of the site has requested the Council to vacate the site and a notice to quit expiring 31st Decr 1950 was received. This matter is receiving the Council's attention.


The method of collecting the refuse has been very unsatisfactory but during the year an improvement was effected by entering into a five-year contract with Messrs D. Williams & Sons for the provision and maintenance of a properly covered vehicle, adapted for the specific duty of refuse collection.

HOUSING.

Following the failure to acquire Llynllloedd ground as a Housing site with the consequent loss of the preparatory plans made, the Council immediately set out to provide an alternative housing site at Caecrwn, and by the end of the year 32 houses had been erected and occupied with another 28 under construction.

There are about 105 houses in the town scheduled as unfit for human habitation, but no progress has been made in the removal of these due to the acute shortage of accommodation, some of these houses become vacant from time to time, but are allowed to become re-occupied as the "lesser of two evils". In addition some unfit houses, closed prior to 1939 have been requisitioned and again occupied.

This means that the Council will have to start afresh in finding another housing site to cope with the "Waiting List" of applicants and to cope with the removal of the major portion of the 105 unfit houses and the closure once again of the condemned houses now under requisition.



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Fourteen houses at Dovey View (Clearance Area No 1) were demolished.

During the year licences were issued for the erection of two private houses.

Regarding the reconditioning etc of houses under the Housing Act 1949, the Council resolved not to delegate their powers to the County Council. Two applications were made under Section 20 for grant-aid, but neither of the two schemes were approved. In any case the cost would have been in excess of £600 so that they may have been disqualified in this respect quite apart from any structural requirements. The £600 maximum expenditure allowed by the Act appears inadequate to ensure satisfactory accommodation.

MORTUARY ETC:

The Council is giving consideration to the provision of a public mortuary.

NUISANCES:

During the year 50 informal notices were served (involving 89 letters) regarding nuisances in 41 separate houses and one bakehouse. By the end of the year 24 notices had been complied with, one abandoned (not strictly a nuisance prejudicial to health) and five not resolved and still in process of attention. No statutory notices were served.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION:

There is one Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the Urban Area, and the building was unsatisfactory in many respects and had been the subject of representations by the Council to the Ministry of Food. Meat inspection was regularly carried out under considerable difficulties.

For the year ending 31st March 1951 the total weight of meat condemned amounted to 6978 lbs of which 1583 lbs was infected by tuberculosis. Diseased livers of bovine animals was a regular feature and the number of livers passed in their entirety as fit for human consumption is very small.

The Slaughterhouse closed down in Sept 1950 for complete reconstruction and extensions with proper facilities.

Transportation of meat had also been a very unsatisfactory feature for some time but following representations a specially adapted vehicle was provided and came into service giving a hygienic delivery of meat.

A quantity of tinned food was surrendered during the year by various shopkeepers.

I remain,

Mr Chairman & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DAN E. DAVIES.

